

Chairmen's Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 26th February 2013

Present	Deputy T.A. Vallois, President Deputy S.G. Luce, Vice-President Senator S.C. Ferguson Connétable M.P.S. Le Troquer (Representing Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel) Deputy J.H. Young Deputy K.L. Moore
Apologies	Deputy J.M. Maçon
Absent	
In attendance	Mr. W. Millow, Scrutiny Officer Mr. T. Oldham, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Minutes of previous meetings</p> <p>The records of the meetings held on 25th January and 1st February 2013 were approved and signed accordingly. The record of the joint meeting held with the Council of Ministers on 9th January 2013 was approved.</p> <p>The Committee considered the record of its meeting held on 22nd January 2013 and, in particular, that part of the meeting during which the Committee had considered the matter of a perceived conflict of interest on the part of the Chairman of the Environment Scrutiny Panel. It was noted that the Chairman had concerns regarding the accuracy of the record in respect of the precautions which he should be expected to take, particularly with regard to the appointment of expert advisors and the avoidance of contact with certain officers. The Committee agreed that the record would not be signed. Further consideration would therefore be given to the record at a subsequent meeting.</p>	
	<p>2. Panel / PAC Matters</p> <p>The Committee noted that there were no individual matters arising from the Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee which required its attention.</p>	
<p>22.01.13 Item 10 510/1(61)</p>	<p>3. Ministerial Responses: Follow-up on Accepted Recommendations</p> <p>The Committee considered the subject of follow-up to Scrutiny Reports. It was agreed that it was important for Scrutiny Panels to follow up reports in order to determine whether accepted recommendations had been implemented. It was noted that, in some instances, Ministerial Responses had been unclear as to whether recommendations within the corresponding Scrutiny Report had been accepted or rejected and, if the former, what the</p>	

	<p>timescale would be for their implementation. It was agreed that the President would discuss the matter with the Chief Minister at their meeting later that week.</p> <p>The Committee noted that some recent Ministerial Responses had not been presented to the States in accordance with the timescales laid down in the <i>Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee</i>. It was agreed that this was a matter for Scrutiny Panels to take up individually with the relevant Ministers.</p>	TV
	<p>4. Panel Activity Reports</p> <p>The Committee noted the Scrutiny Panels' Activity Reports. The Committee considered that the Activity Reports indicated that an encouraging amount of work had been, and was currently being, undertaken.</p>	
510/3(7)	<p>5. Media Relations</p> <p>The Committee considered the current high level of activity amongst the Scrutiny Panels and noted that it had become more likely as a result that more than one Panel might seek to launch a review at the same time or that more than one Panel might seek to present a report at the same time. It was agreed that the Committee would therefore need to be mindful about the co-ordination of publicity and coverage of Scrutiny work. The Committee was advised that the Scrutiny Office currently monitored the drafting of reports by Panels in order to ensure that presentation dates did not clash.</p>	
<p>22.01.13 Item 2</p> <p>510/1(45)</p>	<p>6. Quarterly Hearings: Efficiency</p> <p>The Committee recalled its previous discussion of whether podcasts and transcripts of public hearings could be made more accessible by being indexed. The Committee noted that work on this matter had subsequently been undertaken by the Scrutiny Office. The Committee confirmed that it would be beneficial for broad, high-level indexes to be provided for Quarterly Public Hearings, given that a variety of topics could be covered at any one Quarterly Public Hearing, but that such indexes would not be required for public hearings held in respect of reviews.</p>	
510/3(10)	<p>7. Website</p> <p>The Committee noted that upon presentation of a recent Scrutiny Report to the States, a copy had not been immediately available on the Scrutiny website. It was considered that material such as Scrutiny Reports and media releases needed to be available online at the time of publication. It was noted that this could currently prove problematic; for example, the embargo upon a Scrutiny Report might be raised at 12:00am but the report itself might not become available on the Scrutiny website until the start of the working day. The Scrutiny Officers were requested to look into the matter to see how this situation might be addressed.</p> <p>Further consideration was given to the Scrutiny website and it was noted that the location of transcripts of Quarterly Public Hearings were currently difficult to identify on the website.</p>	TO / WM
22.01.13	8. Citizenship Programme	

<p>Item 6 510/3(2)</p>	<p>The Committee recalled that two schools [Les Quennevais and Le Rocquier] had agreed to take part in the Citizenship project. The Committee noted that dates of 22nd May and 26th June 2013 had been suggested respectively. The Committee noted that the Council of Ministers would meet on both days, as well as two Scrutiny Panels, and it was therefore agreed to enquire whether 23rd May and 27th June 2013 might also be feasible.</p>	<p>TO / WM</p>
<p>22.01.13 Item 5 510/3(9)</p>	<p>9. Social Networking</p> <p>The Committee noted that work was underway in respect of establishing a Twitter account for Scrutiny.</p>	
<p>22.01.13 Item 4 510/3(5)</p>	<p>10. Newsletter – Edition 11</p> <p>The Committee noted that work would be undertaken for publication of the next edition of the Scrutiny Matters newsletter to occur during the week beginning 22nd April 2013.</p>	
<p>510/1(15)</p>	<p>11. 2012 Financial Report</p> <p>The Committee noted the financial report for 2012 and the 2012 travel and entertainment costs. The Committee was advised that underspent funds were returned to the Department of Treasury and Resources. It was further noted that if all budgeted expenditure in 2012 had been realised, there would have been little underspend in 2012. The Committee considered whether Panels could potentially in future make greater use of expert advisors to undertake bodies of work on the part of Panels, thereby decreasing the time commitment required of Panels themselves and allowing Panels to cover more areas of work. It was noted that this approach would potentially be beneficial.</p>	
<p>20.02.13 Item 4 510/1(47)</p>	<p>12. Away Morning / Afternoon</p> <p>The Committee recalled the discussion at the meeting of all Scrutiny Members regarding an away morning or afternoon. It was noted that some topics for discussion at such an event had been suggested although it was apparent that some suggestions fell more appropriately within the remit of the Privileges and Procedures Committee. It was suggested by the Chairman of the Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel that, rather than holding an away morning or afternoon, Panels should consider how their work upheld the States' strategic aims. It was agreed that, notwithstanding the Chairman's own reservations regarding an away morning or afternoon, it would be beneficial for her to prepare a paper on the matter for subsequent consideration at an eventual away morning or afternoon.</p> <p>It was agreed that any away morning or afternoon would not take place until after the imminent referendum was held on 24th April 2013 but that it would occur before the summer recess of the States Assembly. The Committee further agreed that Panels would be asked to consider their work to date and to identify what had worked well and what had worked less successfully.</p>	<p>KM</p>
	<p>13. Future Meetings</p> <p>The Committee noted that it would meet at 2:30pm on 13th March 2013 in order to meet the States of Guernsey Review Committee.</p>	

	Consideration was given to when the Committee's next scheduled meeting would occur and it was agreed to meet on 26th March 2013.	
--	--	--